



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Neurohr to represent Wisconsin in national Teacher of the Year program

Second-grade teacher at Kohler Elementary School will receive \$6,000 award from Herb Kohl Educational Foundation

MADISON—Lori Neurohr, a second-grade teacher at Kohler Elementary School, will represent Wisconsin in the national Teacher of the Year program.

A statewide panel of educators, parents, and community leaders selected Neurohr from among four Teachers of the Year named in early September. She was chosen for her superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students, her drive to motivate others, and her leadership and service within and outside the classroom.

"The praise of students is one of the highest recommendations a teacher can have," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in congratulating Neurohr for being named Wisconsin's representative to the national Teacher of the Year program. "Lori Neurohr's second-graders say their teacher is so creative they sit on the edge of their seats waiting for her to introduce the next lesson and that they jump out of bed each morning because they can't wait to get to school. They call her the best teacher in the world."

Creating a learning community that is similar to family, Neurohr stresses the importance of individual respect in her classroom. She specializes in differentiated instruction to ensure that all her students are challenged at an appropriate learning level. The first group of second-graders that Neurohr taught are now in eighth grade. "Many of those students still come to my classroom just to say hello and share about their day," she said.

In addition to the love of her students, Neurohr is called a "gift to the teaching profession." A parent cited Neurohr's extra efforts to ensure the success of every child in her letter of recommendation. "What Mrs. Neurohr brings to the teaching profession and the families that are fortunate to be touched by her abilities, is a gift beyond measure," the parent wrote.

(more)

Neurohr reaches out to other teachers as a colleague and mentor. "I have been blessed with such good fortune in my life; I consider it a privilege and duty to give back whenever I can," she said. Her work within the district includes mentoring a new teacher, assisting other teachers with Orton-Gillingham materials and teaching techniques, and serving on the early literacy and strategic planning committees. She holds an after school reading club to provide extra support for students and is a frequent spectator at community athletic events and performances as well as a volunteer and fundraiser for special activities.

"Lori is incredibly dedicated and giving of her time," said Karen Ingels of the Sheboygan Blue Line Association. "Her dedication and passion in everything she does inspires excellence and challenges everyone around her to be better at whatever they do."

Neurohr holds a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Lakeland College in Sheboygan. She earned a master's degree in reading and language arts from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Her application materials will be sent to the national Teacher of the Year program competition. An announcement is typically made in spring.

In addition to representing Wisconsin at the national level, Neurohr will receive a \$6,000 award from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. The foundation, through the generosity of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, provides financial support for the Teacher of the Year program.

"I am pleased to support the Teacher of the Year program," Senator Kohl said. "Recognizing the efforts of the hard-working educators who shape and guide the minds of our young people will help ensure that caring, quality teachers are educating tomorrow's leaders."

Neurohr, who is Wisconsin's Elementary Teacher of the Year, is one of four educators chosen to represent Wisconsin's PK-12 teaching corps for the 2008-09 school year. The others are Middle/Junior High School Teacher of the Year Sandra Kowalczyk, who teaches sixth- through eighth-grade reading at Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie; High School Teacher of the Year Lucas Siebert of Oostburg High School, who teaches technology education to seventh- through 12th-graders; and Special Services Teacher of the Year Sharon Gilbert, a music teacher at Alexander Middle School in the Nekoosa School District. She is currently a music teacher at Humke Elementary School, also in Nekoosa.

"Individuals chosen as Teachers of the Year are stars," Burmaster noted. "Lori Neurohr represents the many dedicated educators who work each day to teach our students, to spark a lifelong love of learning, and to prepare them to be productive workers and active citizens of our world."

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_148.pdf. A picture of Lori Neurohr and State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster is available in the State Superintendent's Teacher of the Year photo gallery <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos/2008.09.18.Teachers.of.the.Year/>.